

From The President

A few weeks ago, I attended a meeting of Brownsboro Road residents who were learning about plans for a sidewalk along their street. A senior citizen raised her hand and asked Alderman Melissa Mershon if property owners would be responsible for shoveling snow from the new sidewalks in front of their property. Another person explained that the person asking the question lived alone and wouldn't be able to shovel her sidewalk. Alderman Mershon said that every property owner is responsible for maintaining his or her property, and then she suggested something that goes to the heart of what being a good neighbor means. She suggested that property owners should try to assist their neighbors who are unable to clear their sidewalks of snow and ice.

I suspect that all of us know that Alderman Mershon was right, not only about shoveling snow but about assisting neighbors who might need help with a variety of things, and checking on the ill and elderly. I'm sure that many of us (myself included) don't follow her advice as often as we should. If you're still making New Year's resolutions, being a better neighbor would be a good one to consider.

This newsletter focuses on the Crescent Hill Branch Library and its future. In addition to the main article on the cover, it includes the precinct-by-precinct vote on the library tax issue and addresses of people you might want to write to express your views on the library's future. The newsletter also includes some of the library's impressive history.

Although the library tax initiative passed in Crescent Hill by a two-to-one margin, I realize that more than 1,000 Crescent Hill residents opposed it. But I doubt that many of those people believe that the branch library should close, or suspected that it would close, if the tax was voted down. In fact, most of the opponents of the tax said they were not against increased library services, but believed that other expenditures should be cut before taxes were raised to pay for the library.

Whether the library needs its own taxing district is a political question. But closing or curtailing service at a facility that has served Crescent Hill since 1908 is a neighborhood issue. I have no doubt that the neighborhood would be outraged if our firehouse or our schools were threatened with closure. The threat to the library is also worthy of your time and attention.

2 *Bill Hollander*

Reminiscing About the Crescent Hill Library

Editor's note: This is the first in what we hope will be a series of columns featuring the history of Crescent Hill. We say "we hope" because we're counting on you to send us recollections you think your neighbors would like to share.

This month's "reminiscing" is about the Crescent Hill Branch Library, the future of which is discussed on the cover of the newsletter. It's about Sallie T. Berryman, who was librarian at the branch for thirty years, beginning one year after the branch opened in 1908. The words come from a feature article printed in The Courier-Journal on January 1, 1939, on the occasion of the retirement of Miss Berryman as branch librarian.

From Miss Berryman's mind came ideas for clubs, clubs, clubs. The first story hour in the branches was organized there. The first boys' clubs and girls' clubs came into being. The Boy Scout groups moved in, and Miss Berryman organized the first Campfire Girls' group in the South. She began to reach for adults and arranged study groups in art, literature, civic problems. A child health clinic budded and grew into one of the most important clinics in town, bringing hundreds into her carefully woven web.

The Crescent Hill Library became a neighborhood house as well as a thriving library.

Dear Crescent Hill Neighbor:

On December 15, 1991 we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights. With these rights and freedoms there also comes the responsibility of securing and maintaining freedoms for all persons, as well as exercising these rights.

Join me this year and celebrate the Bill of Rights by attending one of the meetings of the Board of Aldermen. All meetings of the Board of Aldermen are open to the public. The Aldermanic meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. The Board of Aldermen meetings are held on the third floor of City Hall in the Aldermanic Chambers at 601 West Jefferson Street.

If you are unable to attend our meetings, I invite you to watch on Storer Cable

Its average book circulation each day is around 300, and now tables would never hold the 11,500 volumes which have been carefully selected by the librarian with her budget...

"A librarian is an educator but she mustn't let her public know it. If the public's reading taste is bad, never mention it, but gradually change it", [Miss Berryman] says, believing that the informal relationship between the librarian and her public can be far more effective than academic pupil-teacher contacts.

Miss Berryman has groomed more boys and girls for a happy and self sufficient adulthood, say educators, than any one person in the city of Louisville.

According to Samuel W. Thomas' book, Crescent Hill Revisited, which contains the above passage from The Courier-Journal, Sallie Berryman moved from her apartment at 121 South Birchwood to a nursing home and died on February 14, 1941. She was 70.

Happy New Year

channel 8 where the meetings are televised live and repeated during the alternate weeks.

Please let me know if you plan to attend a meeting so that I can introduce myself to you and provide you with a copy of the agenda for that night's meeting. If you have any questions about the Aldermanic meetings or about any legislation that we are considering, please contact my office at 625-3100.

Sincerely,

Melissa

Melissa Mershon
First Ward Alderman
625-3100

The Library Vote in Crescent Hill

Voting at:

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church
E-101 Yes 186 No 93
L-120 Yes 377 No 155

Crescent Hill Baptist Church
E-109 Yes 165 No 55
E-136 Yes 237 No 121

Artmaster -
2932 Cleveland Blvd.
L-119 Yes 255 No 143

League of Women Voters
E-108 Yes 237 No 122

St. Leonard School
L-118 Yes 318 No 199

Presbyterian Seminary
Student Lounge
E-113 Yes 216 No 63

Holy Spirit Gym
E-102 Yes 192 No 91
E-110 Yes 161 No 129

Total Yes 2344 No 1171

Emmet Field School PTA

It has been an eventful Fall at Field. Mayor Abramson has honored us with his presence twice, at the Kickoff Ceremony for Operation Brightside and at the Annual Meeting of the Crescent Hill Community Council-Dessert with the Mayor. It was great to have our neighbor over for a visit.

We were also visited by our Grandparents for lunch and reminiscences of school days past, and exchanged visits with the Environmental Students from Valley High.

Field School involvement with the community has been exciting. Only 27 Scouts earned the God and Country Award in the council last year and 3 of them (Michael Thompson, David Kinnaird and Ned Anderson) are Field students! The county clerk's office loaned us some voting machines to conduct elections for the student council and they got a real workout by all the students. We have parent/faculty representation in the discussions regarding the new student assignment plan being proposed by the Board of Education. We are able to provide RADON testing kits for \$5.00 to anyone who wants to test their residence.

We are hoping to have an Alumni Reunion this Spring if the response is great enough, so send in your ideas and the names/addresses of any former faculty members you know of.

Fall fundraisers this year included the sale of Cheese & Sausage, the Halloween Happening and the Santa Shop for small consumers. Monies earned from these and past endeavors enabled the PTA to spend over \$1860 so far on everything from Weekly Readers to special Math programs to help our children. We couldn't do it without the tremendous support that the Crescent Hill Community has been kind enough to extend to the Best Neighborhood School in the city. Thanks to everyone.

Please remember to send in the Kroger receipts from all your holiday shopping. We are closing in on a 2nd computer. Also remember to order a Cookbook from the 5th Grade for a unique New Year's gift. Thanks!

In Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Dennis L. Hopf, who died December 5 at the age of 44. Dennis was an owner of Administrative Service Co., which sets type, prints labels and maintains the mailing list for this newsletter. For many years, Dennis and his wife, Charlene, have been very generous with their time and energy on our behalf. Last October, the Council presented the Hopfs with a plaque recognizing their efforts.



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